

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
STATE INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM BOARD**

DHS/Donaghey Plaza South Building
700 Main Street, Room 5368
Little Rock, Arkansas

Thursday, January 10, 2008

Members Present: Bonnie Coates, Chairman
Micheal Burden, Vice Chairman
Mark Tripp, Secretary
Carlton Jones
Clara Ferron
Stephen Foti
Trudi Ramsey

DHHS Staff Present: John Selig, Director, Department of Human Services
Steven Jones, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services
Rich Rosen, Attorney, DHS Office of Chief Counsel
Ron Angel, Director, Division of Youth Services
Karen Scott, Assist Director, Division of Youth Services
Charles Smith, Division of Behavioral Health Services
Ed Hood, Division of Behavioral Health Services
Joyce Dees, Governor's Office
Russ Meeks, Ray Winder's Field Group
Liz Ganahl, Admin Asst, Division of Youth Services

Chairman Ms. Bonnie Coates called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2007 MEETING

Mr. Mark Tripp made a motion for the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting to be approved as distributed. Mr. Stephen Foti seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT

The Division of Behavioral Health Services Quarterly report had been previously distributed and is attached to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Charles Smith, Arkansas State Hospital (ASH), Division of Behavioral Health Services, (DBHS) presented the report.

Arkansas State Hospital

New Hospital Report:

Mr. Smith referred to the DBHS quarterly report handout and stated ASH was moving rapidly on completing the construction of the new building with the completion date by the end of March, 2008. Mr. Smith said the hospital is not ready to move yet because of the furniture situation. Mr. Smith said \$250,000 has been approved for furniture for the patient's areas and has been ordered from the Department of Correction (DOC). Mr. Smith said there is no funding yet for the \$669,500 new furniture order for the programming and administration areas and if they have to move the furniture from the old hospital to the new one, this will delay the moving in process. Mr. Smith said UAMS wants DBHS out of the building as quickly as possible.

Ms. Trudi Ramsey asked about the purchasing process of the furniture for the new hospital. Mr. Smith stated if they buy from the DOC, there are no bids required and the state likes to see them buy from the state. Mr. Smith said the DOC has good quality merchandise and good prices. Mr. Smith stated with such a high dollar amount, formal bids through the Office of State Procurement would have to be made and due to the speed in which this furniture needs to be acquired, the DOC was the best deal. Ms. Ramsey said she felt it was very important to have all new furniture for the new hospital. Mr. Smith said he has requested to DHS for the additional money. When asked about the computers, Mr. Smith said they continually update their inventory of computers and replace the more obsolete models and felt the computers were ok.

Mr. John Selig, DHS Director, said as soon as he can identify money that can be moved to this project, even it is \$100,000 at a time, he will. Mr. Selig said even though we would all like to have all brand new stuff, some of the furniture that is in good shape and can be moved, will be moved. Mr. Selig said he has not been to the Governor's office about this particular item but DHS already has about \$6,000,000 in requests at the Governor's office.

Mr. Smith said the furniture and other items that are not moved to the new hospital will have to go to M&R to sell and the division will get a small percent of the money. Mr. Smith said they have some additional money set aside for the lobby furniture. Mr. Smith stated with the new hospital there will be 60 additional beds on the adolescent unit and the hospital is already running 98-99 percent filled per day.

ASH Maintenance Report:

Mr. Smith stated the suicide resistant shower valves on the adult units have been installed. The pipe covers for plumbing behind the toilets have been tested and need a slight modification to function properly. Mr. Smith said he is questioning the cost of fabricating these considering the hospital will be moving in a couple of months. The new hospital has all of the pipes recessed behind the walls. The same goes for the replacement of door knobs/levers with the replacement cost being \$600 per door knob. Mr. Smith stated these improvements have been

recommended but are not required because of the move. Mr. Smith said the provisional accreditation was based on fire related improvements such as additional fire insulation and overhead sprinklers. Mr. Smith said the elevators also need to be enlarged and updated and has been an issue since 1962 but there is a waiver on that improvement because of the move.

Mr. Smith said the mold problem is back and there is no cheap fix. Ms. Coates was appalled with the mold situation with people working in it and asked when did it become a priority to fix? Mr. Smith said it was being monitored but it still came back. Mr. Selig said this problem was on the list of items that have been submitted to the Governor for funding but DHS has not been told which of the items on the list will be funded. Mr. Selig suggested the Board contact the Governor to express their concerns. Mr. Smith stated the mold is back but not like it was before and more in the high moisture areas. Mr. Smith said the engineers said it was a systematic problem and have made a few changes but have not eliminated the problem. The system is being monitored every quarter.

Arkansas Health Center

Mr. Ed Hood reported on the Arkansas Health Center (AHC). Mr. Hood said AHC has upgraded the look of their campus by putting up new blue awnings on several buildings which match the logo on the water tower.

Mr. Hood stated Building 80 is complete with the concrete kitchen floor repair.

Mr. Hood said remodeling of the Pine Court day area is complete and it's looking more like a modern nursing home look with a large day room in the front by the nurses' station. Mr. Hood said they plan to do the same thing to the Oak Court day area.

Mr. Hood said the ceiling in one of the large freezers has been rebuilt.

Mr. Hood reported AHC has received \$5,000 from Friends of AHC Organization along with some money of their own, to fund the joint venture with the Game and Fish Commission this summer to get a large wheelchair accessible fishing pier for the residents. Mr. Hood stated it will be a big and new improvement to the facility.

Mr. Hood stated last month there was a question about the soccer and footballs games that were allowed to be played on the AHC campus last fall. Mr. Hood submitted a copy of the release they received from Mr. Breck Hopkins of OCC that was signed by the organization using the fields. Mr. Hood stated it was for liability coverage and he has submitted it today for the records. Mr. Hood said it was all handled before any of the games were played. Mr. Hood felt it was very beneficial program for the community and will continue to allow the games. When questioned, Mr. Hood said the fishing dock was open to the community at certain events and not to the general public. Mr. Hood said it is open to the employee's families and residents. Mr. Hood stated it is stocked by the Game and Fish Commission and they allow AHC to have fishing derbies a couple times a year. Mr. Hood said the residents also benefit from the derbies.

Mr. Stephen Foti made a motion to accept the DBHS report. Mr. Carlton Jones seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

The Division of Youth Services (DYS) report had been previously distributed to the Board and is attached to the minutes.

Ms. Karen Scott, the Assistant Director of the Division of Youth Services, said she was giving the report due to the absence of Mr. Doyle Young.

Ms. Scott reported DYS is still waiting for the \$14,900,000 for capital improvement at the Alexander campus. Ms. Scott said some maintenance has been done, the installation of special juvenile room doors at the S.T.A.R.T. building and the paint and repair of the front of the kitchen. Ms. Scott stated a site study was completed concerning the water intrusion at the Education building and recommendations were made for water diversion along with the installation of gutters.

Ms. Scott said the bigger issue was the Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center. The plans have been submitted and approved by the Arkansas Building Authority for the water main piping for the fire safety system at the Mansfield facility and hope to go out for bids in February. Ms. Scott said preliminary estimates came in a little lower than originally projected. Ms. Scott said other high priority needs are the sprinklers in the female dormitory and new roofs for the female and three (3) male dormitories. Ms. Scott said these items are on the improvement list of the \$6,000,000 submitted to the Governor.

Ms. Coates questioned about redoing the carpets because of the water problem at the Alexander facility, Ms. Scott said after getting the engineers report back, they were going to construct some sidewalks and curbs to help with the drainage problem.

Mr. Carlton Jones asked what would happen to the housing of juveniles if the Mansfield facility was closed. Ms. Scott stated the facility has 48 beds, 27 male and 21 female, and if the facility closed DYS would have to find alternative beds for them somewhere else in the system and there are no additional beds available. A judge has committed these youths to DYS custody so they can not just be released back into the community. Ms. Scott said DYS also has youths in JDC's waiting for beds to become available. Ms. Scott said DYS is starting a mobile assessment team along with UAMS to prevent the youths from coming to the Alexander facility for assessment. The youth will then be placed in one of DYS' other facilities. Ms. Scott said the residential staff is working very hard to identify youth at the JDC's that could be served in the community and never come into the DYS residential settings. Ms. Scott felt this system was working with currently only 14 youth in JDC's as opposed to this past summer with 70 youths in JDC's. Mr. Carlton was concerned because the Arkansas Department of Correction attempted to do the same thing several years back and it was referred to as "fast tracking" of certain individuals and it ended up leading to a back log of more violent offenders in the county jails. Mr. Ron Angel said he did not feel this would happen because DYS doesn't have that many youths committed that

are referred to as hardened serious criminals. Mr. Angel said DYS wants to use the residential facilities to meet the needs of the youths, who are potentially going to end up there, so these youths will receive more intense treatment in a more restrictive setting. Mr. Angel said DYS wants to keep the lower risk youths closer to home. Mr. Angel said DYS will have to track all of these youths and keep an eye on their progress. Mr. Angel said this plan was not to “fast track” these youths right out of the system and not receive the services they need.

Ms. Coates asked how the state’s facilities can continue to operate with different criteria as compared with a private facility. Ms. Coates said if a privately owned facility had the same problems, they would be shut down by the state. Mr. Angel said DYS has no choice with the number of youths being committed to us; DYS is trying to provide the safest and most secure facilities possible. Mr. Angel said that is why DYS is hoping the Governor will choose to help fund the improvements at Alexander to improve the quality and safety of life for these youths. Ms. Coates stated she finds it appalling on the conditions of the DYS facilities. Ms. Coates said instead of spending \$750,000 for all new furniture for the new ASH spend the money on the improvements for the DYS facilities. Mr. Angel said in the near future DYS would be putting their budget together and DYS has to compete for what funds are available. Mr. Angel said he feel strongly about providing a safe environment and a quality of life for these youths because many of them have never had that opportunity to live in a good safe place. Ms. Coates asked what could the SIS Board do to help. Mr. Angel suggested the Board appeal to the Legislature for the funding. Mr. Micheal Burden said there needs to be a comprehensive plan to upgrade the facilities. Mr. Burden said we seem to be re-acting instead of pro-acting. Mr. Burden suggested having someone go through each building and look for maintenance problems. Mr. Angel said some of the facilities are suffering from age. Mr. Burden felt the new ASH should start out with the best and then keep it that way. Mr. Angel said it was DYS’ responsibility to do the facility maintenance plan and then require the facility contractor to maintain the plan. Mr. Stephen Foti said every division puts a budget together and submits it to the Director who puts it into a major budget and then it goes to the Legislature for funding. Mr. Foti felt the Board’s role is to support that budget. Mr. Angel said DYS was in the process of a strategic plan of where DYS is going in the future and all of the facilities will be tied in with that plan. Mr. Selig encouraged the board to write a letter to the Governor stating their concerns of the state of the DYS facilities and the funding required to fix them. Mr. Selig said he would send a draft letter to each Board member with his priorities for funding to the Governor.

Ms. Clara Ferron made a motion for the SIS Board to receive the information from Mr. John Selig and write a letter to the Governor concerning the DYS facilities funding. Mr. Micheal Burden seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Coates said the Board would have a phone conference concerning the letter and she would sign it after all the Board members approved it.

Mr. Mark Tripp asked what type of time frame were they looking at concerning the DYS facility master plan. Mr. Angel said there is a foundation out of New York that is going to fund an expert to come in and assist in developing a strategic plan for DYS. Mr. Angel said one of the first steps is a skeleton strategic plan with where we are and where we want to be in the future.

We are timing somewhere in the neighborhood of May of having completed a skeleton plan and then they are willing to fund a position to assist us in developing spending up to a year or longer for an expert to work with DYS to get into the meat of that skeleton plan. Mr. Angel said the foundation is interested in reforming the juvenile justice system and it would not take any state dollars. Mr. Angel said they would not tell DYS how to do it but to show DYS how to move toward reform to increase treatment and the quality of care for these youths. Mr. Angel said the skeleton plan by May and then continue to put the meat on the skeleton. Mr. Angel said he would keep the Board updated on the progress of the plan.

Mr. Stephen Foti made a motion to accept the Division of Youth Services report. Mr. Micheal Burden seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to accept Board members travel reimbursement for 2008.

Mr. Micheal Burden made a motion to accept the Board members travel reimbursement for 2008. Ms. Coates seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Selig introduced Mr. Russ Meeks stating he was one of a number of people who are interested in making use of the Arkansas Travelers field, known as the Ray Winder field. Mr. Meeks is working on, in specific in the near term, to continue to use the field as a baseball facility, for some of the needs of the community. Mr. Selig stated it was good timing because the SIS Board is the one who would make a decision about the property DBHS has at Ray Winder. Mr. Selig said he suggested talking with Mr. Foti because he has been the contact person for that facility.

Mr. Meeks said in the 1930's there was an initial lease of ground for the Little Rock Baseball Club, Inc. at the time to build a facility. Mr. Meeks stated over time more and more has been added to the facility but the size of the land has never changed which is four (4) acres. The state's interest is one half, part of the property is also owned by DBHS and the City of Little Rock but the structure sits on the whole property lot. Mr. Meeks said he and a large group of citizens have formed Ray Winder Foundation, Inc., legally filed in November of 2007. The group would like to make a simple lease with the State of Arkansas, DBHS and the City of Little Rock for a five (5) year lease term of \$10. Mr. Meeks stated they could build specific protections in there if necessary, such as keeping up the facilities, etc. Mr. Meeks said the group's purpose is to preserve the facility for utilization for amateur baseball, not professional. Mr. Meeks stated group would provide volunteers to help with the repairs and maintenance of the facility. Mr. Meeks stated the one catastrophe they could not replace would be the complete replacement of the roof at a cost of \$750,000 but they could repair it. Mr. Meeks said they group would propose to use it for high school and college games since a lot of high schools to do not have a place to play within a local community and this would give them that opportunity. Mr. Meeks felt if the facility is not repaired now it will get beyond the ability to save it. Mr. Meeks

felt it could best be used by high schools, colleges, men's senior leagues, tournaments city and statewide. Mr. Meeks asked the SIS Board to authorize this deal so he and the lawyers could work up a short lease to submit for the Board's review. Mr. Meeks stated he knew the Board only met quarterly but asked if they could perform a voice vote at some time in between on the specifics of the lease. Mr. Meeks stated the terms would be pretty simple including the utilities, maintenance, and operations. Mr. Meeks reassured everyone they were not asking for or requiring any city, state or government money. Mr. Meeks said the facility would be maintained but not up to the standards professional baseball fields are required to do.

Vice Chairman Micheal Burden asked Mr. Stephen Foti to report on the Ray Winder Field since he has been part of the original committee. Mr. Foti stated he liked Mr. Meeks' proposal and it immediately took some of the liability off of the state in terms of the deterioration of the facility. Mr. Foti stated the committee he was on was very political because several groups want it. Mr. Foti said one group wanted to tear it down along with the golf course and make a big city park. The zoo group wants the property to tear it down to expand the zoo. The golfers wanted to keep the golf course. Mr. Foti said the city doesn't have the money to do anything with it. Mr. Foti said his concern was the zoo group because they were very politically represented.

Mr. Selig said if Mr. Meeks can get an agreement with the city, DBHS will follow. Mr. Selig said if there is any money to be made in it, DBHS would get the money. Mr. Rich Rosen from OCC stated there is a right of first refusal on the property and if an offer to buy the property is made, the lease will be null and void. Mr. Burden said the Board had no objection for Mr. Meeks to work with the OCC attorneys to draw up a lease to be approved by the Board at a later date.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2008, 1:30 pm, at the DBHS Administration Building Conference Room, 4800 W. 7th, Little Rock, Arkansas. A tour of the new State Hospital will follow after the meeting.

Mr. Micheal Burden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Clara Ferron seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mark Tripp, Secretary